

RULES  
OF  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ENTOMOLOGY AND PESTICIDES

CHAPTER 40-4-1  
BEEKEEPING

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**40-4-1-.01 Licensing of Queen and Package Producers.**

(1) No person shall engage in the business of selling package bees, queens, or nuclei in the State of Georgia without a license issued by the Commissioner. Such license shall be issued when:

(a) The applicant has submitted a license application containing information required by the Commissioner; and

(b) The Commissioner has inspected all colonies to be used in producing package bees and queens and has found them to be apparently free of American and European Foulbrood, and other bee diseases; and

(c) The applicant has submitted the required twenty-five (25) dollar license fee.

(2) Licenses shall be permanent, unless, after any inspection by the Commissioner, he suspends the license due to the presence in the apiary(ies) of any of the organisms specified in (1)(b) above, or unless the Commissioner revokes or cancels the license for other violation(s) of this Chapter.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. [2-14-41](#). **History.** Rule entitled "Licensing of Queen and Package Producers" adopted. F. Oct. 29, 1991; eff. Nov. 18, 1991.

**40-4-1-.02 Queen and Package Certificates.**

(1) No licensee shall ship any package bees or queens unless they:

(a) are accompanied by a valid certificate issued by the Commissioner, certifying that the bees have been produced in an apiary which has been found apparently free of American and European Foulbrood, and other bee diseases; and

(b) are treated at time of shipment with queen tabs or package strips that contain fluvalinate, or with another pesticide registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Department of Agriculture for controlling *Varroa jacobsoni*.

(2) Certificates will be issued for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months from the date of inspection by the Commissioner.

(3) Certificates will be issued by the Commissioner upon payment of a five (5) dollar per order fee plus two (2) dollars per 100 Certificates. Fees shall be separate for queen and package bee certificates.

(4) The Commissioner may cancel and recall certificates issued to any apiary:

(a) In which he finds American or European Foulbrood or other bee diseases;

(b) Which he finds has used certificates on shipments of uncertified bees, or bees which have been shipped in violation of these rules.

(5) Fees for certificates cancelled and recalled by the Commissioner shall not be refundable.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. [2-14-41](#). **History.** Rule entitled "Queen and Package Certificates" adopted. F. Oct. 29, 1991; eff. Nov. 18, 1991.

#### **40-4-1-.03 Queen and Package Bees Produced Outside the State of Georgia.**

Queen and Package Bees produced outside the State of Georgia may be shipped into Georgia when accompanied by a certificate issued by the apiary official in the state where the bees were produced, certifying that the apiaries of the producer have been inspected within one (1) year of the date of shipment and that such apiaries have been found apparently free of American and European Foulbrood and other diseases. All queen and package bees shipped into Georgia must also be treated at time of shipment with queen tabs or package strips that contain fluvalinate, or with another pesticide registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Department of Agriculture for controlling *Varroa jacobsoni*.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 2-14-41. **History.** Rule entitled "Queen and Package Bees Produced Outside the State of Georgia" adopted. F. Oct. 29, 1991; eff. Nov. 18, 1991.

#### **40-4-1-.04 Interstate and Intrastate Movement of Honey Bees.**

(1) No honey bees on comb or in hives shall be moved into and located in Georgia unless a permit has been obtained from the Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of Georgia.

(2) Applications for a permit shall be made on a form obtained from the Entomology and Pesticides Division of the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Such form shall include the following information:

(a) the number of colonies to be moved;

(b) the county(ies) in the State(s) of origin from which the colonies are being moved;

(c) each state and county where the colonies have been located during the previous two years;

(d) the county location(s) in Georgia in which the bees are to be located;

(e) other information required by the Commissioner including whether or not Africanized honey bees are known to be generally present in any area from which the honey bees have been moved within the last two years.

(3) No permit shall be issued by the Commissioner unless the application for such permit is accompanied by a certificate by the apiary official in the state of origin which certifies that the honey bees have been inspected within ninety (90) days of the date of shipment and have been found to be apparently free of American and European Foulbrood, other bee diseases, *Varroa jacobsoni* and that bees were actively rearing brood at the time of inspection. In lieu of certification that hives are free of *Varroa jacobsoni*, certification may be based upon treatment with hive strips that contain fluvalinate or with another pesticide registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Department of Agriculture for controlling *Varroa jacobsoni*.

(4) No permit shall be issued by the Commissioner which would allow honey bees to enter Georgia from any area which the Commissioner determines has Africanized honey bees present.

(5) Honey bees on comb or in hives may enter Georgia from any other state for the sole purpose of passage through Georgia, subject to the following conditions:

(a) All shipments shall be securely netted or contained in refrigerated vessels to prevent escape;  
(b) Movement through Georgia will be made without interruption, except for necessary fueling, meals, sleep or emergency service.

(6) Resident Georgia beekeepers may move honey bees on comb or in hives, freely, and without restriction, within Georgia, provided such honey bees have not entered Georgia in violation of any provision of this chapter, or are not moved from any area in violation of a quarantine.

(7) Any Georgia resident beekeeper may, upon request, obtain certification from the Georgia Department of Agriculture that his honey bees are apparently free of the tracheal mite, *Acarapis woodi*, or *Varroa jacobsoni*, when such certification is required by another state as a condition for shipment. Request for sampling and certification shall be made to the Department of Agriculture at least sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled time of shipment.

Authority, O.C.G.A. Sec. 2-14-41. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Interstate and Intrastate Movement of Honey Bees" adopted. F. Oct. 29, 1991; eff. Nov. 18, 1991.

#### **40-4-1-.05 Certificates Issued by Other States.**

If the Commissioner should find American or European Foulbrood, other diseases, or the parasitic mite, *Varroa jacobsoni*, in shipments from another state under official certificates of inspection, the Commissioner may refuse to recognize any certificate from that state until such time as the Commissioner is able to determine that the inspection program of said state is adequate to support the issuance of valid certificates.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. [2-14-41](#). **History.** Original Rule entitled "Certificates Issued by Other States" adopted. F. Oct. 29, 1991; eff. Nov. 18, 1991.

#### **40-4-1-.06 Quarantines.**

Any apiary in any county in Georgia, found by the Commissioner to be infected with American or European Foulbrood, other disease, or found to contain honey bees determined to be Africanized by methods deemed appropriate by the Commissioner, shall be placed under quarantine and enforcement actions shall be taken as follows:

(a) Any apiary found to be infected with American Foulbrood shall be placed under quarantine and all infected hives shall be immediately destroyed by burning under the supervision of the Commissioner. Any such apiary may be released by the Commissioner from quarantine any time after sixty days from the finding of the infection, when the Commissioner determines that the apiary is free of American Foulbrood.

(b) In the case of the presence of Africanized honey bees, the quarantine shall apply to all other apiaries within a two (2) mile radius of the quarantined apiary(ies). The quarantine shall be extended for a two mile radius from any new finding of Africanized honey bees. All apiaries found to contain Africanized honey bees shall be immediately depopulated by or under the direct supervision of the Commissioner. Any such apiary(ies) quarantined under this paragraph may be released from quarantine at any time the Commissioner determines that the apiary(ies) is free of Africanized honey bees.

(c) Any apiary quarantined due to infection with European Foulbrood may be released by the Commissioner from quarantine any time after thirty (30) days from the finding of the infestation, when the Commissioner determines that the apiary is free of the disease.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. [2-14-41](#). **History.** Original Rule entitled "Quarantines" adopted. F. Oct. 29, 1991; eff. Nov. 18, 1991.

**40-4-1-.07 Indemnification.**

Any Georgia resident beekeeper whose bees and/or hives are destroyed in accordance with Rules [40-4-1-.06](#)(1)(a) or (b), shall be eligible for indemnification in an amount established by the Commissioner as provided in O.C.G.A. [2-14-45](#), subject to the provision of 40-4-1-.08.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. [2-14-41](#). **History.** Original Rule entitled "Indemnification" adopted. F. Oct. 29, 1991; eff. Nov. 18, 1991.

**40-4-1-.08 Enforcement.**

Any bees or hives found by the Commissioner to have been shipped into or brought into Georgia in violation of any provision of this Chapter shall be subject to:

- (a) Immediate depopulation or hive destruction under the direct supervision of the Commissioner, and shall not be eligible for indemnification; or
- (b) Such other procedures prescribed by the Commissioner which, in his opinion, are adequate to protect the beekeeping industry in the State of Georgia.

Authority O.C.G.A. Sec. 2-14-41. **History.** Original Rule entitled "Enforcement" adopted. F. Oct. 29, 1991; eff. Nov. 18, 1991.